

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 01239 251008Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 OMB-01 AID-05

EB-07 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 FRB-03 COME-00 CIEP-01 AGR-05 /101 W

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R 241615Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4055

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR AO US

SUBJECT: MPLA OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, UNITA
AND FOOD

1. I TALKED ON AUGUST 22 THE MPLA PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER
LUPO DO NASCIMENTO. THE ALLEGED UNITED STATES AIRLIFT FROM GERMANY
CAME UP AND I TOLD HIM THERE WAS NO TRUTH AT ALL IN THE ACCUSATION.
I SAID THAT OUR POLICY REMAINS ONE OF IMPARTIALITY TOWARD ALL
THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE MADE NO COMMENT, BUT BEGAN
TO DISCUSS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHAT HE
HAD TO SAY WAS INTERESTING BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THE CURRENTS
IN THE MPLA: THE RADICAL LEFT; THE LEFT; AND THE MODERATES.
NASCIMENTO IS NOT AT THE CENTER, BUT HE SITS IN PARTY COUNCILS
AND LIKE MANY MPLA OFFICIALS REPEATS WHAT HE HEARS. IN THIS CASE
NASCIMENTO GAVE ME IN QUICK SUCCESSION THE VIEWPOINTS HELD
BY ADVOCATES OF THE THREE CURRENTS. I HAVE NUMBERED EACH VIEW-
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 01239 251008Z

POINTS TO SET IT OFF FROM THE OTHERS. HE GAVE ME ALL
THREE IN QUICK SUCCESSION, JUST AS I HAVE SET THEM DOWN

HERE.

2. QUOTE. 1) THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. 2) WE RECOGNIZE REALITY. THE U.S. EXISTS AND WE CANNOT DENY IT; IT IS A SUPER POWER. ANGOLA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION DICTATES THAT WE DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES. 3) WE ARE UNDERDEVELOPED AND THE U.S. HAS THE THINGS WE NEED - MONEY AND THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

I, FOR ONE, WOULD NOT REFUSE ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S.; I WOULD EVEN ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HELP US. UNQUOTE.

3. THE RADICALS THINK IN TERMS OF (1). COCKY AND EUPHORIC OVER THEIR SEEMING ABILITY TO TAKE CONTROL OF MUCH OF THE COUNTRY, THEY HAVE DELUSIONS OF ISOLATING THE UNITED STATES IF WE DO NOT BOW TO THEIR WILL. ANGOLANS BELIEVE THAT THEIRS IS A NATION OF SUCH WEALTH AND POTENTIAL, AND OF SUCH STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE THAT THE MAJOR POWERS PUT IT HIGH ON THE LIST OF THEIR PRIORITIES.

4. THE SECOND VIEW IS THAT HELD BY AGOSTINHO NETO, WHO TALKS IN TERMS OF AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OUT OF NECESSITY. HE PUT IT TO ME ANOTHER WAY A FEW MONTHS AGO: "WE ARE NOT SO ANTI-AMERICAN THAT WE CANNOT ADOPT REALITY". HE SAID THAT SO LONG AS THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS RESPECT ANGOLA'S RIGHT TO ACT IN HER NATIONAL INTEREST THERE WILL BE NO IMPEDIMENT TO RELATIONS. THE THIRD VIEW IS THAT HELD BY NASCIMENTO HIMSELF AND OTHERS WHO WANT TO AVOID CONFLICT AND FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES THAT WOULD FLOW FROM ISOLATION FROM THE WEST.

5. WE TURNED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE ANGOLAN SCENE. NASCIMENTO SAID THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FNLA AND MPLA, BUT THAT THERE IS STILL A CHANCE WITH UNITA. UNITA, HE ADDED, IS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH BECAUSE IT IS AN INCOHERENT MOVEMENT. LIKE MPLA, UNITA GREW RAPIDLY AFTER APRIL 25, 1974, BUT ITS LACK OF CADRE AND ORGANIZATION IS NOTEWORTHY. THE LEADERSHIP IS JUST NOT IN TOUCH WITH THE RANK AND FILE. ACCORDING TO NASCIMENTO, IF THE UNITA BASE HAD ITS WAY, THERE WOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE OF ACCOMMODATION WITH THE MPLA.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LUANDA 01239 251008Z

6. I ASKED ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MPLA AND UNITA. NASCIMENTO ADMITTED TO SOME CONTACTS, BUT REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT. HE SAID THAT MPLA IS READY AND WILLING. I RAISED THE ISSUE OF AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS BY MPLA AGAINST UNITA. THE CHARGES ARE NOT TRUE, HE REPLIED. SAVIMBI'S CHARGE THAT MPLA HAD KILLED SEVERAL HUNDRED UNITA RECRUITS HAS NO BASIS IN FACT. AFTER SAVIMBI MADE THE CHARGE, SAID NASCIMENTO, MPLA WROTE UNITA ASKING THAT THE ACCUSATIONS BE DOCUMENTED. TO DATE THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY. AS FOR SAVIMBI'S CHARGE THAT MPLA TRIED TO KILL HIM BY SHOOTING

DOWN HIS PLANE, NASCIMENTO SAID HE BROUGHT THE MATTER UP WITH JOSE N'DELE, WHO SAID HE WAS NOT WELL INFORMED ON THE SUBJECT AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT. HE HAS NEVER MENTIONED THE MATTER AGAIN.

7. I SAID IT APPEARED TO ME THAT THE ONLY SOLUTIONS POSSIBLE WERE EITHER THAT ONE PARTY WINS OR THAT THERE IS A PARTITION. NASCIMENTO SAID THAT TWO PARTIES COULD WIN. I TOLD HIM THAT MPLA WAS NOT ACTING AS THOUGH IT SOUGHT A TWO PARTY SOLUTION. NOW THAT MPLA HAS LOBITO, I ASKED, DOES IT PLAN TO SHUT OFF SUPPLIES TO UNITA TERRITORY IN THE INTERIOR. THAT DEPENDS UPON UNITA, HE REPLIED;HIF THEY DECIDE TO BE ENEMIES, MPLA WILL BE FORCED TO CUT THEM OFF.

8. I INQUIRED ABOUT THE FOOD SITUATION IN LUANDA. NASCIMENTO SAID IT WAS A PROBLEM, BUT NOT AS SERIOUS AS MANY PEOPLE THINK. SOME FOOD IS STILL COMING FROM TRUCK GARDENS AROUND LUANDA AND FROM THE INTERIOR, BUT PORTUGUESE TRUCK DRIVERS ARE LEAVING THE COUNTRY AND THOSE THAT REMAIN ARE RELUCTANT TO GO INTO THE INTERIOR. BENGUELA WHICH IS IN MPLA HANDS, IS A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF PRODUCE, HE SAID, AND MPLA IS SHAPING UP PLANS TO TRANSPORT FOODSTUFFS BY SEA FROM THE SOUTH. SUPPLIES COMING FROM ABROAD WILL ALSO HELP ENSURE THAT LUANDA WILL NOT BE STARVED OUT.
KILLORAN

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